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The Urban District Council of Hexham

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

For the Year 1963

J. M. McEwan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health



R. Robson & Sons, The Abbey Press, Hexham

STAFF

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

H. MITCHELL

Senior Public Health Inspector

J. K. PATTERSON

Assistant Public Health Inspector

A. SUMMERS

Clerk

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Hexham :*

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

Hexham is a thriving, attractive country town with a long and interesting history. It is a popular centre for visitors, and is the market town and administrative centre for a large agricultural area. Although many people are engaged in the catering and distributive trades, there is a sufficient diversity of other industry to ensure stable employment. The Airscrew-Weyroc factory is now in production making chip-board, and offers further opportunity of employment in light industry. There is virtually full employment in the town.

The circumstances of the town vary little and slowly, and rapid change is neither to be expected nor desirable. The population fell very slightly during 1963, but the figure has been almost steady for many years. The birth rate is rather below the average for England and Wales, while the death rate is average. There were three deaths in infancy, all due to prematurity and therefore to be classed as unavoidable, giving an infant mortality rate very close to the national average. At the other end of the scale just over a third of the deaths were of people over 80. The deaths generally followed the expected pattern, but there were ten deaths from lung cancer, the largest figure for some years. Enquiries showed that five of these patients were heavy cigarette smokers, that three were light cigarette smokers, and that two had never smoked cigarettes, but though these facts are of interest the numbers involved are too small, and the period of one year is too short to do more than draw inferences.

The majority of notifications of infectious disease during 1963 were of measles, which was widespread throughout the country. The other notifications were of little significance, and the case of typhoid fever was not an inhabitant of the town. The infectious diseases of children, that used to cause so many deaths or leave incapacity, are now rare — the last notification of poliomyelitis was five years ago, and the last notification of diphtheria sixteen years ago. Tuberculosis also is a less serious problem, and there were only five cases with no deaths during the year.

Only a small number of houses were built during 1963, whether privately or by the Council. The Local Authority houses have been built on a number of small sites, and when these are filled further development will present a problem. While housing conditions have improved very much of recent years and the families re-housed are not of the same urgency, there remains a large waiting list of Council houses. Part of this need will be met by the provision of 40 houses to be built by the Council for sale, and part from the development of special accommodation for the frail elderly, leaving a relatively small need for new general purpose houses. Improvement grants, too, are making a steady contribution to housing by encouraging owners to bring older houses to an acceptable standard.

An enquiry was held during 1963 into the proposed new sewage treatment plant at Anick Grange, and the scheme has been approved by the Ministry.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company as statutory water undertakers have maintained a supply satisfactory in quality and quantity. Plumbo-solvency is not a problem, but the fluoride content is low at 0.1 — 0.2 parts per million. Regular water sampling is undertaken by the Company, while the Health Department carry out check samples, the results being interchanged. Remedial action lies with the Company for the mains supply and with the Council for the few private supplies.

There is now no common lodging house in Hexham.

I have to thank the Members of the Council for their continued interest and support, and the Clerk and other Officers for their co-operation and help. The staff of the department have given willing and efficient service.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	5,932
Estimated Population	9,680

Vital Statistics

BIRTHS :

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	60	60	120
Illegitimate	2	5	7
			<hr/> 127
STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate.. .. .	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	1	1
			<hr/> 5

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	13.9
Total Live and Still Births	132
Total (Live and Still) Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	14.4
Still-births Rate per 1 000 live and still-births	35.7
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population.. .. .	18.2
Still-births Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 live and still-births	17.3

DEATHS :

Total Deaths.. .. .	135
Total infant deaths	3
Infant deaths under four weeks	3
Deaths of infants under one year of age :—	
Legitimate infants	3
Illegitimate infants	Nil.
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	22.2
Infantile Mortality, England and Wales, per 1,000 live births	20.9
Infantile Mortality (Legitimate) per 1,000 live births	22.2
Infantile Mortality (Illegitimate) per 1,000 live births	Nil.

Infantile Mortality (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	22.2
Infantile Mortality (under one week of age) per 1,000 live births	22.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths under one week combined) per 1,000 total live and still-births	57.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births..	5.5%
Deaths from Maternal causes.. .. .	Nil.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	28
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (all causes and ages)	12.2
Death Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 population (all causes and ages)	12.2

The following Table classifies deaths according to their age groups and as to their certification :—

	CERTIFIED		UNCERTIFIED	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—1	1	2	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—
2—4	1	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—
15—24	—	—	—	—
25—44	2	2	—	—
45—49	4	—	—	—
50—54	4	1	—	—
55—59	6	—	1	—
60—64	9	6	—	—
65—69	5	7	—	—
70—74	8	7	—	—
75—79	16	7	—	—
80—84	9	10	—	—
85—89	10	10	—	1
90—94	1	4	—	—
95—100	—	1	—	—
	76	57	1	1

The chief causes of death are as follows :—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of resp. system	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic disease	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	3
" " lung, bronchus	8	2
" " breast	—	2
" " uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	9
Coronary disease, angina	12	6
Hypertension with heart disease	3	1
Other heart disease	5	5
Other circulatory disease	6	6
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	4	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	9
Motor vehicle accidents	1	3
All other accidents	2	—
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
All causes	77	58
TOTAL	135	

INFANT MORTALITY DURING YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1963.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 wk.	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total under 1 mth	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 yr.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pul. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculosis)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All causes { Certified	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
{ Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTALS	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3

VITAL & MORTALITY STATISTICS.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1943	13.2	12.8	50.7
1944	14.0	13.6	37.5
1945	13.2	11.8	15.4
1946	16.6	12.4	18.5
1947	18.5	14.3	54.9
1948	17.7	12.2	12.4
1949	13.9	17.3	39.4
1950	16.0	13.7	53.0
1951	14.1	13.6	38.2
1952	13.7	11.4	62.0
1953	13.2	11.09	24.0
1954	12.7	10.8	33.05
1955	14.2	10.7	22.3
1956	13.7	13.05	15.2
1957	15.4	12.2	27.2
1958	13.2	14.7	32.3
1959	15.8	12.06	40.6
1960	15.9	12.4	6.6
1961	13.7	13.9	15.3
1962	14.3	12.9	7.2
1963	13.9	12.2	22.2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1963.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 & upward	Age not known
Scarlet Fever ...	6	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria ...	13	2	6	5	8	2	1	1	1	1
Measles ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pneumonia ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute polioencephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Acute Encephalitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lethargica ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dysentery ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smallpox ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas ...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Malaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTALS ...	144	2	7	55	71	5	1	4	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1943-1963.

YEAR.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Measles	Ac. Pneumonia	Cerebrospinal Fever.	Acute Polio-myelitis	Acute Polio-encephalitis	Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Pyrexia	Smallpox	Paratyphoid Fevers	Enteric Typhoid or Fever	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningitis
1943	17	7	3	116	18	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1944	18	1	17	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
1945	34	—	1	8	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1946	7	24	1	93	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1947	6	18	1	29	5	26	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
1948	7	31	—	60	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	59	—
1949	12	7	—	8	10	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	2
1950	14	7	—	298	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1951	9	18	—	10	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	5	17	—	143	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1953	29	51	—	86	7	3	—	—	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
1954	5	14	—	9	5	3	—	—	—	15	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	—
1955	4	18	—	103	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1956	1	3	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
1957	8	1	—	102	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	9	39	—	1	10	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	4	—	113	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1960	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1961	1	—	—	222	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
1962	4	14	—	3	7	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
1963	6	2	—	131	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1943-1963

Year	New Cases		Deaths	
	Pulmonary	Other	Pulmonary	Other
1943	15	2	4	—
1944	10	1	4	—
1945	8	2	5	—
1946	6	1	4	1
1947	6	—	3	1
1948	7	4	6	1
1949	6	6	1	—
1950	7	5	2	—
1951	3	2	1	—
1952	4	2	—	—
1953	5	8	1	—
1954	4	1	—	—
1955	14	2	—	—
1956	7	4	1	—
1957	6	1	—	1
1958	10	2	—	—
1959	7	2	—	—
1960	3	—	—	—
1961	11	—	1	—
1962	8	3	1	1
1963	3	2	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.—New cases and Mortality during 1963 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Urban District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—I ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I—4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—I4 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 ..	—	—	I	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 ..	I	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 ..	2	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
55—64 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	3	—	I	I	—	—	—	—

	Cases Notified	Deaths
Gilesgate Ward	I	—
Leazes Ward	2	—
Priestpottle Ward ..	1	—
Hencotes Ward ..	I	—
	5	—

**FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)
RETURNED TO REGISTRAR GENERAL**

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS

Total Outbreaks—Nil. Total Cases—Nil. Total Deaths—

OUTBREAKS DUE TO :—

(a) Chemical Poisons	Nil.
(b) Salmonella Organisms	Nil.
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	Nil.
(d) Cl. Botulinum	Nil.
(e) Other Bacteria	Nil.

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks—Nil.. Total Cases—Nil. Total Deaths—Nil.

SINGLE CASES :

Agent identified—Nil. Unknown cause—Nil. Total—Nil.

HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

1. Hospitals

There are in the district two hospitals, namely the Hexham General Hospital and the Hexham War Memorial Hospital under the management of the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee. These hospitals together with others in the area under the Hexham and District Hospital Management Committee and the Newcastle group of hospitals are available to cases from the area.

Cases of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital are referred to the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Newcastle upon Tyne.

2. Ambulance Service

The British Red Cross acting as agents for the Northumberland County Council provide an ambulance service which serves the district. An ambulance station is situated at West Orchard, Hexham.

3. Home Help Service

The Northumberland County Council Home Help Service is in operation in the district. Home Helps are available to householders where such help is required owing to illness or confinement and their services are obtained through the office of the West Area Health Sub-Committee.

4. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics

The following Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics are held in the district :

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC :—Abbey House, Hexham, Friday, 9-30 a.m.—12 a.m. and 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC :—Abbey House, Hexham, first Tuesday in every month, 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m., first four Wednesdays in every month, 1-30 p.m.—4 p.m.

5. Midwifery and Home Nursing

These services are now administered by the Northumberland County Council and in this district are combined. There are two Nurse Midwives working in the Hexham Urban District.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(MR. H. MITCHELL)

New legislation of importance to the public health department was promulgated during the year 1963.

1. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1963

These new regulations were made on 16th September, 1963, under the Food and Drugs Act 1955. The principal changes will come into operation on 1st October, 1964.

The designation "Tuberculin Tested" disappears and is replaced by "Untreated", and the three special designations for milk now will be "Pasteurised", "Sterilised," and "Untreated."

2. The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963

These new regulations made jointly by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the Minister of Health, replace the old 1924 regulations ; they came into operation on 1st October, 1963.

The main provisions include :—

- (a) compulsory inspection ;
- (b) marking of meat ;
- (c) local authorities may charge for the inspection.

The regulations now provide the means to give effect to the Government's long-standing intention to ensure that all home-killed meat is inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse.

The Fatstock Marketing Corporation continues to use the Council's abattoir under lease granted by the Council, for the slaughter of livestock and a very high proportion of the carcase meat and offal is exported to London, Newcastle and other wholesale centres. The abattoir is recognised as a Deadweight Certification Centre by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and a grading officer of the Ministry is employed permanently in that capacity at Hexham.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Factories and Workplaces	244
Milk and Dairies	69
Drainage Works : Alterations—additions	75
New Constructions	112
Defective	18
Water Supply	19
Food Premises	451
Shops	383
Slaughter Houses and Knackers' Yards	687
Moveable Dwellings	71
Clean Air	36
Offensive Trades	15
Visits, Public Health and Housing Acts	770
Disinfestation of Rats, Mice and other Vermin	145

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Sanitary Circumstances

Drainage Works

New drains constructed	12
Alterations/Additions	21
Defective drains repaired	7

Sanitary Conveniences

Additional baths provided	12
Additional sinks provided	11

Testing of Drains

All sewers and drains are tested by smoke under pressure or by hydraulic test.

Notifiable Diseases

Terminal disinfection is carried out when necessary in connection with cases of infectious disease investigated on notification. Faecal and other specimens collected are despatched forthwith to the public health laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital.

Number of faecal specimens reported upon ..	12
---	----

Disinfestation

Approved insecticides are used in all cases for the eradication of vermin and parasites. The common house fly is still a nuisance, but is not now a serious problem. Precautionary measures were again taken during the year by the spraying of all refuse bins in the town.

Water Supply

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company is the statutory water undertaker and the readily given co-operation of its officials in connection with the purity of the water supply has been greatly appreciated by the health department.

Samples are collected from various points in the town's mains and dispatched to the public health laboratory at Newcastle General Hospital for bacteriological examination and report.

Number of samples collected from public services	19
Number collected from private supplies ..	1
	—
	20
	—

All samples taken from the town's mains were reported upon as satisfactory.

Typical Analyses of Water from Ladle Wells and Gunnerton

Samples taken at	<i>Gunnerton</i>	<i>Ladle Wells</i>
pH Value	7.0	5.9
Colour	3°H.	0°H.
Turbidity	0	0
Hardness	64	26
Alkalinity	32	15
Chloride	14	9
Sulphate	30	14
Ammonia .. ..	.06	.02
Iron .. ..	.02	.05
Manganese	< .05	Not detected
Oxygen Absorbed ..	0.4	0
Fluoride	0.1 average 0.2 max.	0.1 max.

These figures were provided by kind permission of Dr. A. T. Palin, Chemist to the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

Systematic inspections of food premises and food factories have continued during the year and standards of such premises remain satisfactory.

Food generally

Within the area are 123 food premises of various kinds, 63 of which are registered. In connection with food hygiene, both management and personnel have co-operated with your inspectorate in the administration of the regulations.

Types of food premises are :—

6	Bakehouses
11	Cafes and Hotels
4	Snack Bars
9	Butchers
20	Grocers
6	Greengrocers
3	Wet fish shops
2	Fried fish shops

Ice-Cream

Three producers are registered in the area, and 47 shops are registered to sell pre-packed ice-cream. In all cases regular visits of inspection are made and the standard of hygiene is satisfactory. The Heat-treatment Regulations are carried out to the satisfaction of your inspectorate.

Number of premises registered during the year ..	3
Number of samples collected for examination ..	10

Results of examination :

Grade	I	..	10
„	II	..	—
„	III	..	—
„	IV	..	—

Milk and Dairies

Systematic sampling of milk is carried out for :
keeping quality

Number of samples collected for :	
Methylene-blue test	58

FOOD INSPECTION

	UNSOUND FOOD				Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
					sts. lbs.		
1	Beef (Home-killed)	..			45 ¹	13	—
2	Beef (Imported)	..			—	—	—
3	Mutton (Home-killed)	..			83	5	—
4	Mutton (Imported)	..			—	—	—
5	Pork	..	..	..	19	3	—
6	Game	..	..	..	—	—	—
7	Poultry	..	..	..	—	—	—
					lbs. ozs.		
8	Fish	..	..	..	—	—	—
9	Fruit	..	..	..	—	—	—
10	Canned Goods	..	..	..	1473	5	—
11	Bacon	..	..	..	—	—	—
12	Cheese	..	..	..	—	—	—
13	Butter	..	..	..	—	—	—
14	Lard	..	..	..	—	—	—
15	Eggs	..	..	..	—	—	—
16	Other Foods	..	..	..	5	8	—
17	Frozen Foods	..	..	..	88	—	—

TOTAL .. 666 st. 5 lbs. 13 oz.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl'd'g Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed ..	2,432	121	99	4,665	811	8,128
Number inspected ..	2,441	127	99	2,693	813	6,173
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	4	20	34	41	3	
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	49	54	3	85	39	
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and and cysticerci ..	2.1	58.2	37.3	4.6	5.1	
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	7	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	.16	6.6	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
<i>C. Bovis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	4	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT THE ABATTOIR

Steers	Heifers	Cows Bulls	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Rams Ewes	Pigs	Sows Boars
1,104	1,319	130	99	4,417	248	762	49

SUMMARY OF UNSOUND MEAT AND OFFAL

	Tuberculosis	Other Diseases	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Cows	809	9,116	9,925
Other Animals ..	69	13,678	13,747
TOTAL ..	878	22,794	23,672

All unsound meat and offal condemned at the Abattoir is collected by a processing firm from Gateshead where it is sterilized under supervision.

TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Whole Carcases condemned	20	24	16	22	11	6	3	5	3	5	—	1	1
Part Carcases or organs affected ...	71	38	28	112	55	53	21	48	39	33	9	14	7
Percentage affected ...	26.3%	20.2%	15.7%	23.3%	14.6%	12.0%	6.3%	7.8%	11.3%	9.5%	3.1%	5%	6.6%

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54

Renewals of Licences to Slaughter	10
New Licences granted	Nil.

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1963

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ..	18	Nil.	18
(b) By any other Author- ority	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(c) By Private Persons ..	Nil.	12	12

Total Number of Inhabited Houses in District	3,226
Total Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority ..	1,041
Estimated Population	9,680

1.—Closing and Demolition of Houses

(1) Number of houses demolished as a result of clearance Schemes	Nil.
(Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas)	Nil.
(2) Number of houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil.
(3) Houses closed, including partial closure	2
(4) Other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings..	1

2. Reconditioning and Repair

Number of unfit houses rendered fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

(1) As a result of informal action	33
(2) By owners as a result of statutory action	Nil.
(3) By local authority on default of owners	Nil.

3. Inspection

(1) Number of houses inspected and visited for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	75
(2) Number of houses and parts found to have defects ..	43
(3) Number of houses and parts found to be wholly unfit for human habitation	5

4.—Housing Act, 1949

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) *Discretionary* :

Applications submitted to local authority	18
Applications rejected by local authority	2
Applications approved	16
Total number of applications approved in area since inception of scheme	148

(b) *Standard* :

Number of houses for which grants have been made during the year	6
Total number to date	24

5.—Families Rehoused during 1963*Under points scheme :*

From private houses	..	..	..	..	..	7
From Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	10

Decanted from Council houses :

For moral overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	9
For under-occupation	..	..	..	..	..	7
For medical reasons	..	..	..	..	..	4
For other reasons ..	..	..	..	..	..	26

To aged persons' bungalows :

From Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	9
From private houses (includes 2 from other bungalows)						3

Other cases :

For medical reasons	..	..	..	..	..	4
Under eviction orders	..	..	..	..	..	4
From unfit houses..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Key workers	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
For other reasons ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Exchanges from private houses	..	..	..	..	..	2

Applicants rehoused other than Urban Council :

By other local authorities	..	..	..	..	..	9
Privately .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cancelled applications (deceased)	..	..	..	..	..	1

6.—Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and the Rent Act, 1957*Certificates of Disrepair :*

Number of applications for certificates	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Number granted .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Undertakings received	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Repairs completed. Cases terminated	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local authority	Dwelling houses	Business premises	Agricultural
Number of properties inspected	12	80	50	8
Number infested :				
Rats	5	26	16	2
Mice	—	1	1	Nil.
Number of treatments	5	26	16	2
Total number of inspections	15	80	50	8

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Under this act it is an offence to keep a pet shop except under the authority of a licence granted by a local authority. It applies to market stalls as well as established premises.

Number of licences granted 2

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS), ACT, 1956.

No action was necessary during the year in connection with the administration of Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act.

Within the administrative area of the Urban Authority there are thirty-six farms and holdings, none of which is considered large enough to merit the construction of additional wash places and conveniences for the people engaged. In every case the occupier is most willing to allow the existing amenities to be used by the agricultural workers concerned.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959**Inspections** (including Inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted ¹
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	21	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	74	193	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	8	30	—	—
TOTAL ..	86	244	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	4	4	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	3	2	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	12	—	—	—

1 Registered Outworker.

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT

<i>Date Operative</i>	<i>Adopting Authority</i>	<i>Subject Matter of Byelaw</i>
7/5/03 ..	North'd County Council ..	Street betting Street obstructions Street music Lights on vehicles
3/11/27 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures
11/2/32 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Slaughterhouses
4/8/32 ..	North'd County Council ..	Nuisance caused by wireless loud speakers. Gramophones in shops and licensed premises
1/5/39 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	New streets
1/7/39 ..	North'd County Council ..	Litter, etc.
1/12/46 ..	North'd County Council ..	Noisy animals
1/3/47 ..	North'd County Council ..	Nuisances contrary to public decency
1/12/49 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Markets
1/1/50 ..	North'd County Council ..	Bulls
24/4/50 ..	North'd County Council ..	Sale of Contraceptives in slot machine
17/7/50 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air
12/10/53 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Building Byelaws
1/5/56 ..	North'd and Tyneside River Board	Rubbish, refuse or litter
1/10/56 ..	North'd County Council ..	Employment of children
1/3/57 ..	North'd County Council ..	Discharge of fireworks, etc. in places of public entertainment
29/3/57 ..	North'd County Council ..	Sale of Coal
1/8/58 ..	Hexham U.D.C. ..	Building Byelaws — Smoke prevention
1/9/58 ..	North'd County Council ..	Deposit of mud and other material on highways
1/9/58 ..	Newcastle and Gates- Water Company ..	Prevention of waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water
1/8/59 ..	North'd County Council ..	Preservation of road margins laid out for ornamental purposes
1/9/61 ..	North'd County Council ..	Fouling of footpaths by dogs.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

Three private holiday sites are operated in the area licensed by the local authority for eight months in each year, opening on 1st March and closing on 31st October.

The sites are well organised and the owners provide all the amenities asked for by the Council.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The health committee have considered two reports from their officers. Further detailed reports are to be considered when the position is opportune.

Smoke Control Areas :

The Minister stated in Parliament on 24th May that in view of technical changes in the gas industry affecting production of gas coke a review of current arrangements under this Act was being instituted.

It is apparent that no transfer of soft coke to the North from the South or Midlands is likely, and as most Smoke Control schemes depend on the open solid fuel fire using soft coke the tempo of new control orders has been slowed down. Hard coke can be used only in certain types of appliances such as closed or openable stoves and these are recommended for inclusion in any future scheme of smoke control area.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

Number of visits and inspections	37
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Most of these visits were in connection with one particular industry in the centre of the town. Noise from the operation of plant became a major nuisance to immediate neighbours. The management promised full co-operation and by the middle of the year the position was resolved at some considerable cost to the firm in question.

